

idea. No idea of how much money her State has spent? How can we trust this government with our money when it cannot account for its own?

We have limited resources. This is the American taxpayers' money. We need to spend it prudently and wisely. I ask for caution in spending American taxpayer dollars.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-61)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on October 20, 2004 (69 Fed. Reg. 61733).

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause unparalleled violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain economic pressure on significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia by blocking their property and interests in property that are in the United States or within the possession or control of United States persons and by depriving them of access to the U.S. market and financial system.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 19, 2005.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I do not know how to get to the White House, but maybe you do. Could you please tell the President they need some cultural sensitivity training up there?

When he sends out his ambassador, his good friend, Karen Hughes, and tells the Saudi women that she sees the day when they will drive cars and they laugh at her and tell her they like the way things are, there is something amiss. We are running this war on terror as though it was a war on Islam. We must change that.

This morning's Sydney Morning Herald carries a story about our troops in Afghanistan which is very disturbing. It talks about our troops burning bodies and then saying in the villages where this happened, "You allowed your fighters to be laid down facing west and be burnt. You are too scared to retrieve their bodies. This just proves you are the lady boys we always believed you to be. You attack and run away like women."

Now, when one talks like that to an Arab, they are asking for it. That is not leading to peace. That is not done by culturally sensitive people who are bringing American democracy. That is the language of people who ran Abu Ghraib. That is the kind of thing that brings us down, not raises us up. No elections, no trials of Saddam will change that.

[From the Sydney Morning Herald, Oct. 19, 2005]

FILM ROLLS AS TROOPS BURN DEAD
(By Tom Allard)

U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan burnt the bodies of dead Taliban and taunted their opponents about the corpses, in an act deeply offensive to Muslims and in breach of the Geneva conventions.

An investigation by SBS's Dateline program, to be aired tonight, filmed the burning of the bodies.

It also filmed a U.S. Army psychological operations unit broadcasting a message boasting of the burnt corpses into a village believed to be harbouring Taliban.

According to an SBS translation of the message, delivered in the local language, the soldiers accused Taliban fighters near Kandahar of being "cowardly dogs". "You allowed your fighters to be laid down facing west and burnt. You are too scared to retrieve their bodies. This just proves you are the lady boys we always believed you to be," the message reportedly said.

"You attack and run away like women. You call yourself Taliban but you are a disgrace to the Muslim religion, and you bring shame upon your family. Come and fight like men instead of the cowardly dogs you are."

The burning of a body is a deep insult to Muslims. Islam requires burial within 24 hours.

Under the Geneva conventions the burial of war dead "should be honourable, and, if possible, according to the rites of the religion to which the deceased belonged".

U.S. soldiers said they burnt the bodies for hygiene reasons but two reporters, Stephen Dupont and John Martinkus, said the explanation was unbelievable, given they were in an isolated area.

SBS said Australian special forces in Afghanistan were operating from the same base as the U.S. soldiers involved in the incident,

although no Australians took part in the action.

The incident is reminiscent of the psychological techniques used in Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

EDUCATION FUNDING SOLUTIONS
FOR THE WEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago I had the opportunity of addressing this body and illustrating a problem that we have, especially in the West. I think that problem can be illustrated best by two charts that we have here.

The first chart, everything that is in blue in this chart is the amount of land that is owned by the Federal Government in each State. The second one is everything that is in red are the States that are having the difficult time of actually funding their own education systems. Those are the States having the slowest growth in education.

Now, I do not think it takes a rocket scientist to realize there is a correlation between the red States having problems funding education and the blue States that are controlled by the Federal Government with all their land. It is not because these red States do not have high taxes. In fact, they have a higher tax than the yellow States. It is not because they do not have a commitment to education; they actually spend a greater percentage of their budget on education than the yellow States. The difference is, we have a cavalier attitude about public lands that we should realize hurts kids and it hurts their education in the West.

Now, there is a solution to it; and it comes with a simple fruit, it is an apple, which stands for the Action Plan For Public Lands and Education. I wish I could say I was smart enough to have thought of it, but it was actually designed by some State legislators working the Council State Governments West that recognized this problem and came up with a solution to it.

There are two bills that we have which can deal with those solutions. The first one would say, all right, take all this blue land and allow the Federal Government to pay property tax on it. If the Federal Government paid the lowest rate of property tax on the land that is owned and controlled by them in the West, in fact, in the entire Nation, they would add another \$4 billion every year to the funding of public education. That is a whole lot of money for us to come up with, although you could also look at it as the fact that

the Federal Government prohibits States from raising \$4 billion to solve their own problems and fund their own education processes with the way we control public lands.

Now, since that is going to have a difficult time, there is a second bill. This bill is number 3463, which says that this map was never intended to be the way it was supposed to be forever. When the western States, those from Montana down to New Mexico that have all the blue space in there, the Federal land, when they were originally admitted as States, everyone except one had in their enabling act the idea that the land should go to the Federal Government until such time as the Federal Government shall, not might or if or may, but shall dispose of the land, and 5 percent of all of the proceeds were to go back to the States for a permanent education fund to fund their education. To be honest, actually three States did not have that. They said their 5 percent was supposed to go for infrastructure and roads. But everyone was supposed to get something back from the Federal Government.

In the mid-1970s, this Congress changed the rules of the game without consulting these States and passed legislation that said our official policy will now be to keep the land and not pay the 5 percent. What bill 3463 intends to do is say, okay, fine, let them keep the land, except have the States choose 5 percent of the land that is available, and we will take some things off the table, like national parks, monuments, reservations, military installations, things that are not valuable to the States anyway. But of the remaining land that is there, let them choose 5 percent of that land for their own to put it in for the purpose of building education funds in each of those western States.

If these western States could take the 5 percent of their land that is available and couple it with the school trust lands already open to them, they could create amazing economic zones, especially in rural parts of their States, which would not only build the economy, but which would also pay for the education of their kids. Since we are in an energy crisis, much of this land would be dealing with the growth and energy and potential for that growth.

One of the things we have is a cavalier and sometimes a flippant attitude about these lands in the West. I had an administrative official say, Why are you worried about all this land? It is a bunch of useless land where nobody lives anyway, or it is all our land, so we recreate on it. What we have to realize is that this policy has actually hurt kids. The educational ability of kids growing up in the West is depressed because of this land policy.

What we need now to do is to realize that and take constructive efforts to try and change that. Allow the States in the West to have the vehicle and the ability to raise the money to fund their education system in the way they wish

to do it, and House bill 3463 would actually do that.

U.S. DEBT CONTINUES TO RISE UNDER BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, congratulations are yet again in order to the Bush administration. They hit another milestone just last week. They ran up the 8 trillionth, trillionth dollar of debt in the name of the American people.

The U.S. debt is up 60 percent under the Bush-Cheney watch with the Republicans in charge of Congress, a 60 percent increase in the Federal debt in 5 years. That took some doing. That means every American, from the tiniest baby to the oldest senior citizen, today owes about \$27,000. That is a heck of a burden to carry.

And then this year, they are touting the fact that they only have the third largest deficit in history at \$312 billion. They are saying, big progress. Of course, they forget to tell you that that does not include borrowing every penny of this year's Social Security surplus of \$180 billion, which is only paid for by working people, not the rich who are favored by the tax cuts. Only people who earn less than \$94,000 pay Social Security taxes. They are paying \$180 billion more than is necessary for the program, with the idea it is being saved.

It is not being saved. This administration is taking that money and spending it, part of it to finance tax cuts for rich people who do not pay Social Security taxes. A great noose on the taxpayers' money.

But now they are born again, right here on the floor in front of us this week, as fiscal conservatives. They say they want to pay for the Katrina disaster, but there is only one way to do it. Cut the tax cuts for the rich people? Oh, no, no, no. Wasteful spending? No. How about, let us go to the programs that are important to average Americans. Health care for seniors: they want to cut Medicare and Medicaid for seniors. Education: kids are already struggling to go to school, but cut education. They would hit at food stamps so they will be more hungry, and maybe cut back on energy assistance in a time of huge price gouging by their friends in the oil, coal, and gas industries.

Now, this is born again fiscal prudence on that side of the aisle. But what they are not telling people is not a penny of those cuts would go to pay for the Katrina disaster. No. In fact, they would, by implementing those cuts, still increase the deficit next year by a quarter of a billion dollars. Now, how can that be? I thought that money was going to pay for Katrina. No. They are going to borrow all the money to pay for Katrina. They are using those

cuts to finance, guess what, more tax cuts for the richest among us. They want to make permanent the cuts in capital gains, dividends taxes, and a permanent exemption of all estates from all estate tax. That costs a lot of money.

Now, why should we do this? Well, because they believe in trickle-down economics. The way to stimulate our economy, the way to rebuild our economy is more trickle-down economics. They even, one conservative over there had the gall to say poor people do not put people to work. No, that is right. Poor people and working people do the work. But they are saying we need to shower more money on the richest among us.

During the last 2 years, 99 percent, this is from the Internal Revenue Service controlled by George Bush, their statistics, 99 percent of Americans saw real income reductions after inflation. One percent, those over \$311,000, saw an increase; and one-tenth of 1 percent, those over \$1.3 million, saw a huge increase in their income, mostly due to tax cuts paid for by working people and borrowing against our future. And now they have the gall to come to the floor of the House and say, if only the Republicans were in charge, this fiscal irresponsibility would stop. Excuse me. You control the White House, the House, the Senate, and the judiciary. You control everything. It is within your power. You want to pay for Katrina? Let us cut wasteful spending.

□ 1630

The President wants to borrow \$1 trillion to go to Mars. They are already beginning to borrow \$100 billion to go back to the Moon. Hey, JFK took us to the Moon for a fraction of the cost. Why do we need to borrow \$100 billion to go back? That would pay for half of the Katrina disaster. Then we can talk about, guess what? Tax cuts for the wealthy.

If we just did not make those tax cuts permanent, we could pay for Katrina a number of times over. But oh, that would mean that rich people would pay income taxes at the same rate as working people, and that does not fit into their trickle-down theories.

There is a few other things that we could cut, agriculture subsidies. Let us say any farmer who earns over \$100,000 a year will not get a taxpayer-financed subsidy where the money was borrowed, sometimes from Social Security, to subsidize that farm. That is pretty simple.

But no, they cannot go there. Or maybe we can get rid of the silly star wars fiasco. The general in charge of Star Wars has spent \$100 billion on it so far, borrowed, taxpayer money, says it has a better than zero percent chance of working.

Now is that not heartening? Let us have real fiscal responsibility, not more phony bologna.